Mr. George Delaplaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

3/12/88

Dear George,

And old friend, an Englishman who used to be Washington correspondent for The Times of London, sent me the enclosed A.M.Rosenthal oped piece from the NY.Times.

I send it in the event you would like to know more about the actualities of the controversy of which I've been part.

As we both know, the guy I think has suckered you reads the Times. We'll see if his concept of journalistic integrity includes even this understated other side.

Rosenthal makes no mention of Arab absolute refusal to discuss any kind of settlement or acknowledge any right to so much as a foot for an Israeli state. What any individual Arab may at any time says is meaningless with this long history so much of which I'd forgotten until I read A History of the Jews by the British non-Jewish historian Paul Johnson. Beginning with the proposal of the Peel Commission in 1937, which would have given the Arabs, in addition to the larger part of The Palestine Territory they'd already been given when Britain gave them Trans-Jordan, 80 percent of what remained. In each of the many subsequent occasions, including the UN's proposal, the Arabs refused even to discuss anything at all, except elimination of Israel. This is the one part of the enormously complicated situation that is simple and unchanged and unchanging.

May I suggest, off the top of the head, what just came to mind? It is that the papers ask a local history professor to write a review or article on that chapter of that book, which is published by Harper & Row and is a Book of the Month Club selection, hardback and quality paperback.

Also, this being a religious area, I've just begun to read The Bible as History by a German named Keller (Morrow). The cultural development as of and even before the time of Abraham, about 2,000 B.C., in Mesopotamia, now Iraq, was absolutely astounding. Archeological diggings confirm the bible even on the flood. Maybe a local anthropologist could write an interesting article.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg